

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15

NSC-05 /043 W

----- 023058

R 311418Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2831

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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STATE FOR CU/EE; USIA FOR IEU; LENINGRAD FOR P&C

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: OEXC UR US

SUBJ: VISIT TO USSR OF ARTIST JAMIE WYETH

1. EMBASSY WISHES INFORM DEPARTMENT THAT AT FAREWELL DINNER FOR WYETH WHICH BEGAN EARLY AND ENDED LATE, UNION OF ARTISTS, FIRST SECRETARY YURI KOROLEV, AN ARTIST HIMSELF BUT ALSO A UNION STRONGMAN IN EMBASSY'S OPINION, PROPOSED EXCHANGE OF AN ALL-WYETH (GRANDFATHER, FATHER AND SON) EXHIBIT FOR SOVIET EXHIBIT SOMETIME IN 1976. ALTHOUGH KOROLEV DELCARED DECISION WAS TAKEN AT HIGH-LEVEL UNION MEETING, PROPOSAL NEVERTHELESS WAS MADE TO WYETH UNDER LESS THAN BUSINESS-LIKE CIRCUMSTANCES, AND NO DISCUSSION OCCURRED OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR SHIPPING, INSURANCE, GALLERY RENTALS, ETC. EMBOFFS PRESENT DIFFERED IN ASSESSMENT OF KOROLEV'S DEGREE OF SOBRIETY, BUT AGREED THAT WYETH WAS PROBABLY NOT FOCUSING ON THE PROBLEMS INHERENT IN THE SUGGESTED EXCHANGE.

2. WYETH RESPONDED TO KOROLEV'S OFFER WITH SUGGESTION THAT IN INTEREST OF DETENTE, ETC., SEVERAL UNOFFICIAL ARTISTS BE INCLUDED IN WHATEVER EXHIBIT SOVIETS SEND TO US. ACCORDING WYETH, WHO ADMITTEDLY REMEMBERS LITTLE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHAT TRANSPIRED DURING EVENING, KOROLEV, AFTER SEVERAL

MORE ROUNDS OF VODKA, TENTATIVELY AGREED TO PARTICIPATION BY UNOFFICIAL SOVIET ARTISTS IN PROPOSED EXCHANGE. IN EMBASSY OPINION, IT UNLIKELY UNION WILL "REMEMBER" AGREEMENT ON UNOFFICIALS ONCE EUPHORIA OF WYETH VISIT WEARS OFF.

3. IN PROBABLE EVENT WYETH WILL BRING KOROLEV PROPOSAL UP DURING FUTURE DISCUSSIONS WITH DEPARTMENT, BELIEVE APPROACH SHOULD BE THE ARTISTS' UNION PROPOSAL IS OBVIOUSLY AN

EXPLORATORY AND PRELIMINARY ONE WHICH THE EMBASSY/DEPARTMENT DID NOT INSTIGATE, BUT WHICH THEY FAVOR AND WOULD ASSIST AND FACILITATE. EMBASSY, HOWEVER, CANNOT OFFER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO COVER COSTS SUCH AS THOSE OUTLINED ABOVE. ANOTHER RELEVANT POINT IN MATTER IS THAT WYETH NOT CERTAIN HE WILLING RETURN TO USSR IN EVENT PROPOSED EXCHANGE ACTUALLY TAKES PLACE. FYI: WYETH TOLD EMBOFF HE EXPECTS MEET WITH KISSINGER AND PRESIDENT FORD ON RETURN TO WASHINGTON ON BASIS HE FIRST AMERICAN ARTIST TO BE INVITED TO USSR AS GUEST OF UNION OF ARTISTS. SAID DEPARTMENT SO INFORMED HIM. END FYI.

4. AIRGRAM ON ENTIRE WYETH VISIT FOLLOWS.
MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW10758
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750265-0365
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975074/aaaaadjja.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <27 OCT 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT TO USSR OF ARTIST JAMIE WYETH
TAGS: OEXC, UR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006